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No Budget for the Lords

WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED LITERATURE AND THE ENGLISH REVIEW

Edited by LORD ALFRED BRUCE DOUGLAS

No. 1981

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AND LETTERS LIFE

Ir appears to be generally assumed and taken for granted that the House of Lords is going to allow the Budget to become law. For some extraordinary reason not a single statesman and not a single newspaper has so much as suggested the possibility of the Lords once more exercising their constitutional right to reject a measure which they believe to be inimical to the interests of the country, and which they know to be unacceptable to the majority of the electorate. When the Lords refused to pass the Budget of 1909 they did so in the belief that they were interpreting the sense and giving expression to the wishes of the community at large. They referred the Budget to the opinion of the constituencies of England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland; and a General Election The result was that by a took place on this issue. majority of about fifty seats the electorate endorsed the opinion of the Lords, and expressed their disapproval of The real majority against the revolution by Budget. Budget in the present House of Commons is, as everybody knows, and nobody, not even Mr. Lloyd George or Mr. Ure, could attempt to deny, at least fifty. That is, of course, if everyone voted according to his conviction. When we say conviction, we do not mean private convictions, but open and avowed convictions. It is not open to dispute that the whole Conservative and Unionist party is opposed to the Budget. Nor is it open to dispute that the whole of the Irish party, both Redmondites and O'Brienites, are opposed to the Budget. And this combination gives a clear majority of at least fifty over the supporters of the Budget comprised in the Radical and Labour parties combined. Yet in the face of these obvious and undisputed facts not a single member of Parliament, not a single peer and not a single newspaper has ventured to point out that it is the plain duty of the House of Lords once more to reject this abominable and iniquitous

measure. Hundreds of thousands of people are to be ruined and to be brought to beggary and starvation, and hundreds of thousands more are to be precluded from obtaining any chance of employment, simply because the Radical party has shamelessly and openly bribed the followers of Mr. Redmond to vote against their convictions and the expressed intention of the electors who returned them to Parliament. This ludicrous and yet tragic state of affairs has been brought about simply and solely in consequence of the persistent determination of all our politicians, Lords and Commons alike, to look upon politics as a game with certain fixed and definite rules. The plain facts are that politics are not a game, and that politicians are bound by no rules, save those of common sense and common honesty. The people of this country have returned to Parliament a large, or, at any rate, an ample majority against the Budget, and all the bargaining and huckstering in the world between greedy office-seekers and desperate hangers-on to positions obtained under palpably false pretences cannot alter these facts. The House of Lords is composed of a body of persons who are notoriously and admittedly on the whole honourable and high-minded gentlemen. Each member of the House of Lords is individually absolutely free to vote exactly as he likes on any measure that is submitted to his House, and if Lord Lansdowne has not got the common pluck and the common honesty to advise their lordships of the Unionist party to vote according to his and their convictions, and the convictions of the majority of the British people, it is high time that he was sent about his business and someone else was put in his place. There is a perfect mania nowadays in politics for leaders and "leadership." It seems to be forgotten that some of the greatest and most glorious victories obtained by British arms on land and sea have been won by scornful contempt of cowardly and ignoble orders. Time and time again there have been regiments and battalions and fleets and ships' crews which have deliberately refused to hear the order to retreat or to cease fire. Let the peers of England, Scotland, and Ireland remember that they are men, each possessing a certain right which is indestructible save by his own surrender. Let them remember that they are not a flock of sheep or a pack of terrorised slaves to be driven hither and thither at the crack of the master's whip; but free men, with not only a right, but a sacred, sworn duty to vote according to their own consciences for the good of the country at large, absolutely regardless of their own comfort and their own convenience. It has ever been the privilege, as well as the duty, of the Aristocracy to protect and defend the poor, and there ought surely to be enough left of the leaven of the old aristocratic spirit in the present House of Lords, for all its recent imported brewers and bakers and candlestick makers, to enable a sufficient number of its members to stand up for their own rights and the rights of the people. For our part, even if the electorate at the last election had returned to Parliament a bonâ fide majority in favour of the little Welsh attorney's Budget, we should still have maintained that it was the duty of the House of Lords to throw it out again. But we are quite aware that in these degenerate days the mere idea of anything like resistance to that ridiculous bogey, "the will of the people," is sufficient to bring on a fit of hysterical fear in the minds of our so-called statesmen. If "the will of the people" chooses to declare to-morrow in favour of the execution on the scaffold of the King and the whole of the Royal Family, the suppression by force of the Christian religion and the subsequent disbandment of the naval and military forces, we suppose that "the will of the people" must prevail. But setting aside all this, the present Budget does not even represent "the will of the people," but merely the will of a corrupt and dishonest body of men, and the want of will and the want of pluck of Lord Lansdowne, and the rest of the peers who are content to take their cue from the beautiful and blameless Rosebery, whose recent invitation to the Unionist party to cast aside the main plank of its constructive policy in an effort to "defend the Constitution" is a perfect measure of his intellectual capacity and political foresight.

A person who describes himself as "the Director of the Poetry Recital Society" has been writing to the press with respect to a proposed bibliography of contemporary poetry. "This is desired," says the Director, "by our members and readers who want to know concisely what is being done in modern verse." We can oblige "our readers and members" with the information they seek without in the least troubling ourselves about bibliography. Concisely, and in a nutshell, absolutely nothing is being done that may be considered to require the attention of the bibliographerat any rate in a large sense. The bibliography of English poetry is just about as complete and just as easy of reference as any other section of the bibliographic records. What the members and readers of the Poetry Recital Society would appear to be set upon is the bibliography of the merest minor verse which has really no claim to be catalogued. No doubt it will be extremely soothing to certain members of the society to find their names listed and their "works" duly set forward, with dates of editions, and so forth, in a record which will be stiffened with the great names. The inflation and be-puffing and be-advertising of nonentity is obviously a noble line of business. Already the Poetry Recital Society has been the means of inflicting upon the readers of such eminent literary journals as the Daily Mirror and the Daily Chronicle names which, in the ordinary course of literary affairs, would have remained in the dark, unfathomed caves of oblivion. Up to the time of writing neither the Poetry Recital Society nor the Poets' Club has managed to provide us with a poet, or even a passable verse-monger of whom we have not before heard. Both these organisations flourish on the vanity of mediocrity. No person possessed of a proper feeling for high poetry could possibly have traffic with either of them. After all is said, it is poetry which is the thing. In effect the Poetry Recital Society and the Poets'

Club exist for the purpose of convincing the brainless that England is full of singing birds, not to say downtrodden, inglorious Miltons. In point of fact we have not a dozen poets worth the name in the Empire. Poets' descendants may be very fond of dinner, but they are not poets. Membership of the Poets' Club, and even the possession of the gold medal of that august and prettily dressed body, does not mean that the member or possessor is a poet.

We do not wish to be too hard upon the large number of persons who are afflicted with the desire to write verse. Taking them in the lump, they are worthy and decent citizens, and one is justified in assuming that they do in some measure assist proper poetry, even if only to the extent of perusing it for the purposes of skilful occasional appropriation. At the British Museum there are thousands of slight, slim, hopeless volumes of minor verse which nobody reads and which are mere cumberers of British Museum space. Out of them, however, we would guarantee to cull a good deal of the thought, and an illimitable trappings of the wardrobe of the established English poets. We are not suggesting plagiarism, inas-English poets. much as plagiarism is not a word for the drawing-room. The minor poet prefers "derivation." He is derived and unashamed; and if you say in print that he is derived from Tennyson or Swinburne, or even from Mrs. Wilcox, his cup of happiness runs over. Obviously it is difficult to derive one's verse without reading the author, or parts of the author, from whom one desires to derive. Hence as we say the minor poets admire poetry by reading it. There is a higher service for minor poets, however, namely and to wit, the total abstention from the publication of verse. When the Poetry Recital Society and the Poets' Club resolve that any member discovered in so much as an attempt to publish a volume of verse at his or her own expense, shall be immediately ejected from communion in the society or club, so soon will English poetry begin to be properly served by these organisations. Meanwhile our private thoughts about them lie too deep for tears.

We note with due satisfaction that the Athenœum and the Saturday Review and the Outlook and the Spectator continue to tread the poetical ways delicately. That is to say, five weeks out of six they appear without the harmless, necessary good poem, which is so difficult to obtain. We do not complain, because we believe that the editors of these journals are doing their best, and, as is well known, angels cannot do more. We consider that the new régime is infinitely to be preferred to the old. If we were malicious people, or of a commercial cast of mind, we should rejoice when our contemporaries published bad verse. Our joy, however, is over their repentance. Let them go on and prosper. Our only stubborn and refractory pupil would appear to be the Nation. In his issue for April 16 Mr. Massingham prints at the foot of a letter on "Mr. John Burns and Counter-Attractions," and under the boldly displayed heading of "Poetry," twelve rhymed lines, ten of which we quote:—

Everything that I can see
Has been woven out of me.
I have sown the stars, and threw
Clouds of morning and of eve
Up into the vacant blue.
Everything that I perceive,
Sun and sea and mountain high,
All are moulded by my eye;
Closing which, what should I find?
Darkness, and a little wind.

The author of these lines should see an oculist at once. "Darkness and a little wind" would make an admirable motto for the Nation.

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The New Age, for its part, has lately speculated on eleven lines. Here are nine of them:

Under the moon, on a night of June, I played in the desert on my bassoon:

It was most marvellous to play
In the lonely desert, under the moon,
While a lion sang to the deep bassoon:
And louder I played, with a touch of iron;
For I was desolate and grim,
And my heart was one with the heart of the lion,
Tuned by the holy Seraphim.

Which is evidently intended as a little compliment to the stout, red-faced, bulgy-cheeked gentlemen who blow on the hujah with a touch of brass in provincial menageries. Another New Age poet of the name of Vincent O'Sullivan assures us that:—

A red moon slides above the dune And wild geese fly across the moon.

It is heart-breaking to reflect that only little children in Board schools spell "moon" "m-u-n-e."

All the way from Chicago there comes to us the following sublime stanza by a novelist who does not agree with his critics:—

There may be small excuse for it,
You may have little use for it,
And curl your super-story lip in supercilious way;
You may regard it banefully,
And pass it up disdainfully,
But when it gets the money wotinel have you to say?

Such is the depravity of human nature. We will warrant that these lines go the rounds for all they are worth. Vanity Fair has started the ball.

The current issue of the British Weekly is headed up terribly: --

"Suicide. By W. Robertson Nicoll."

We have no doubt in the world that the hearts of the guileless leapt up when they beheld this print. For ourselves we know better; the Rev. knight knows better. But his article on suicide is full of gems. For example:

The subject of suicide is dark and gloomy.

It is much to be feared that suicide is increasing.

The overstrain of the present day often prompts a
recourse to relief in the form of stimulants and nar-

Ex-convicts will tell you that wherever they go they are met with the story of their transgression and punishment.

The young can hardly ensure themselves against suicide more safely than by resolving to have no secrets in their lives.

We have no right so to overwork ourselves as to endanger the balance of the mind.

There are, it is to be feared, multitudes who live with the sword hanging over their heads, who are afraid to open their letters or their newspapers.

Tilly-fally, Rev. Sir Robertson! On page 69 of this same British Weekly we read:—

No paper in the country has improved more steadily than the *Nation*. It now contains a series of articles worthy to be compared with any in the palmy days of the sixpenny weeklies. In fact, the palmy day has come back to Mr. Massingham's paper.

It is to be feared that it is this kind of paragraph which makes multitudes afraid to open their newspapers. Well might the genial Shorter ejaculate in the *Sphere*, "The grocer is very much in evidence in literature just now."

SONG

As though the year could come to Spring Bleak, joyless—in the barren world No hint of beauty blossoming, Save for one matchless flower unfurled Deep in a wistful place apart—So wert thou to my heart!

As though the day had dimmed and passed And sky and land and sea afar Were utter dark, until, at last Suddenly looked a perfect star And made a glory in the night—So wert thou to my sight!

If there should dawn no other Springs, If dark should brood unbrokenly, My Star, my Flower, my Memory, How could I sorrow for these things, Seeing thou hast put on for me Thine immortality?

N. B. T.

TREES IN GREEK AND LATIN LITERATURE

A special significance attaches to trees in mythology as being the reputed parents of the human race, though to what extent Tree-worship depends on this belief it is hard to decide. That such a belief actually existed, however, is beyond doubt, for it is a characteristic feature in the lore of many countries. The Homeric phrase— $d\pi \delta$ δρυδε $\hat{\eta}$ $d\pi \delta$ πέτρης είναι—was an old and proverbial form of speech to indicate a rude and simple race; and the sentiment is re-echoed in the Anthology, where pride of place is assigned to the oak.

"Spare the parent of acorns, good wood-cutter, spare;

Let the time-honoured Fir feel the weight of your

stroke

The many-stalk'd Thorn, or Acanthus, worn bare,
Pine, Arbutus, Ilex—but touch not the Oak.
Far hence be your axe, for our grandams have sung
How the Oaks are the mothers from whom we are
sprung."

From the ash and the elm, again, Odin and his brothers were reputed to have made the first man and the first woman, naming them Ask and Embla respectively; and a parallel to this is to be found in Hesiod, who says that the Brazen race was the offspring of ash trees— $i\kappa$ $\mu\epsilon\lambda\hat{a}\nu$. Influenced probably by the fact that the country round the Tiber was at an early period covered with forests in which existed a nomad race, with primitive and uncivilised habits, Virgil, in his line,

"Gensque virum truncis et duro robore nata,"
makes primitive man the descendant of the oak; and
Juvenal's

"homines rupto robore nati"

is but a reflection of the same idea.

It is interesting to conjecture by what processes man in

his primal state passed from a belief in himself as a controller of nature to a recognition, however dim, of higher powers around him, whose aid it was necessary to invoke. It is true we find it difficult to

"Think as they thought
The tribes who then roam'd on Earth's breast,
Her vigorous, primitive sons."

but, nevertheless, we may well believe

"That in even savage bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, strivings,
For the good they comprehend not."

Man was fascinated by the freshness of the early world, by the mystery of the unknown; and to his untutored mind, semblance was invested with sufficient power to produce the reality he desired. Such a belief heralds the dawn of symbolic magic in its various manifestations. Among the Australian natives, it takes the form of the bull-roarer, which is endowed with all manner of mysterious influences. Thus, it is a potent spell in causing rain to fall upon a thirsty land, for its roaring "represents the muttering of thunder, and thunder is the voice of Daramulun calling upon the rain to fall." The existence among the Romans of a similar association of semblance and reality is shown by the practice described by Virgil, of hanging hollow heads, in the likeness of Bacchus, from some high tree in a vineyard, in the belief that all places looked upon by the god would be marked by exceptional fertility.

"Et te, Bacche, vocant per carmina laeta, tibique Oscilla ex alta suspendunt mollia pinu. Hinc omnis largo pubescit vinea fetu, Complentur vallesque caveae saltus que profundi Et quocunque deus circum caput egit honestum."

From this superstition, it is a far cry to the animism which attributes consciousness to all natural objects possessing life or force. Such an animism, however, characterises the childhood of the world, when man, a prey to blank misgivings, moves about in worlds not realised. He hears "the wind murmuring in the damp copses," and takes it for "the heavy breathing of some hidden thing, betrayed by sleep."

Everything that is strange and eerie he peoples with quaint denizens, with imps and elves. A forest fills his mind with awe, for it is δαιμόνων ἀναστροφή, full of the presence of spirits—spirits that will go

"Through bog, through brush, through brake, through brier,

Sometime a horse—sometime a hound, A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire; And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn, Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire, at every turn."

Developed thus far, man has learnt to make distinctions, for example, between useful and harmful fruits, between benignant and hostile spirits; and he recognises the sway which each wields. To take an instance: a tree, hitherto a bearer of good fruit, suddenly becomes barren. Clearly, the good spirit, resident in that tree, has been in some way offended, and needs to be propitiated, or, when familiarity has bred a certain degree of contempt for the glamour of spirit dominion, even coerced into resuming its wonted functions.

Here, then, symbolic magic has for man largely disappeared, and in its place grows up a faith in

"The power, the beauty, and the majesty
That had their haunts in dale or piny mountain,
Or forest by slow stream, or pebbly spring."

Very close to this was the spirit in which the Greeks regarded trees. In Mrs. Browning's words:

"A tree's mere firewood, unless humanised—
Which well the Greeks knew when they stirred its bark
With close-pressed bosoms of subsiding nymphs,
And made the forest rivers garrulous
With babble of gods."

One expression of this opinion is to be found in the prominent place in Greek mythology occupied by the Dryads, or wood nymphs, also called Hamadryads, from their living and perishing with their peculiar tree.

"For, when the wind Blows keenly, the oak sends forth a creaking sound, Distinctly heard from far—a doleful note! As if (so Grecian shepherds would have deemed) The Hamadryad, pent within, bewailed Some bitter wrong."

So, too, Circe's handmaidens were sprung from fountains and groves and sacred rivers,

γίγνονται δ' ἄρα ταί γ' ἔκ τε κρηνέωυ ἀπό τ' άλσέων ἔκ θ' Ιερῶν ποταμῶν,

and Proteus possesses the power of changing himself into a lofty leaved tree.

γίγνετο δ' ύγρον ύδωρ και δένδρεον ύψιπέτηλον.

The Greeks were a people of keen æsthetic temperament and fertile imagination; and in the beauties of Nature they experienced a thrill of delight. Their country was bent and shivered by internal convulsions; it was a land of mountains and small valleys, swept by biting winds. There was exhibited in all its fulness the "various action of trees, rooting themselves in inhospitable rocks, stooping to look into ravines, hiding from the search of glacier winds, climbing hand in hand among the difficult slopes, and gliding in grave procession over the heavenward ridges." The artistic spirit of the Greeks was stimulated by the spectacle of those "green-robed senators of mighty woods," stately, majestic, and unmoved throughout the seasons of the changing year. They saw them sometimes mute, sometimes quickened by the passing breeze into a speech which rose and fell in a natural cadence; and with a graceful fancy, thought of them as inhabited by a deity when the swell of wind rustled the leaves. Though lacking that acute observation of Nature which leads a keen student like Mr. Thomas Hardy to discriminate between the voices of trees, poets in general attribute to trees all manner of sensibilities. It is a pretty figure in which Virgil refers to the

"argutum nemus pinosque loquentes," while to Orpheus was the power given

" auritas fidibus canoris ducere quercus."

To the powers of speech and hearing is added the capacity to feel pain, indignation, or compassion. The

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poplar avers she suffers pain when lopped, and imprecates Apollo's dire penalties on all who injure her.

The trees on the grave of Protesilaus were reported to shed their dry foliage, indignant at the sight of the walls of Troy.

"A knot of spiry trees for ages grew
From out his tomb,
And ever, when such stature they had gained
That Ilium's walls were subject to their view,
The trees' tall summits withered at the sight,
A constant interchange of growth and blight."

And Pliny testifies to the same belief. "Sunt hodie ex adverso Iliensium urbe, in Protesilai sepulchro, arbores, quae omnibus aevis, cum in tantum crevere ut Ilium adspiciant, inarescunt, rursusque adolescunt."

The very rocks and oaks, once so obedient to Orpheus' melodious strains, joined in the general lamentation at his death, while laurels and tamarisks gave evidence of their pity for the suffering of Gallus.

"Illum etiam lauri, etiam flevere myricae."

Again-

"In the perpetual round of strange Mysterious change, From birth to death, from death to birth,"

from the opening of the year, from that warm morn "When winter

Creeps aged from the earth, and spring's first breath Blows soft from the moist hills,"

down to its close, when

"Rura gelu tum claudit hiems,"

and the woods-

"Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang,"

"nec jam sustinent onus
. . . laborantes,"

the Greeks saw a representation of the life of man. The old myth of Demeter mourning for her lost Persephone is an indication of the belief that the fall of the leaves was a death, to be followed by a new birth in the spring time, when the ground was filled with life anew. "There is nought among men," sang a poet of old, "that remains firmly fixed for ever, and none has this so well expressed as he of Chios." Famous is the Homeric proverb which compares the race of men to the race of leaves.

" οἶη περ φύλλων γενεή, τοίη δὲ κὰι ἀνδρῶν φύλλα τὰ μἔν τ' ἄνεμος χαμάδις χέει, ἄλλα δέ θ' ὕλη τηλεθόωσα φύει, ἔαρος δ' ἐπιγίγνεται ὥρη ὧς ἀνδρῶν γενεὴ ἡ μεν φύει ἡ δ' ἀπολήγει."

"Some leaves the wind sheds upon the ground, but the wood produces others, and these grow up in the season of spring. Such is the generation of man; one produces, another comes to an end."

The beauties of nature made a vivid appeal to the appreciative spirit of the Greeks. Perhaps the Odyssey contains no prettier simile than that where Odysseus compares Nausicaa to a young palm shoot.

Δήλω δή ποτε τοιον 'Απόλλωνος παρά βωμώ φοίνικος νέον έρνος ανερχόμενον ένόησα.

Spring has for the Greeks a special charm, a charm which

is well expressed in the following lines in the Anthology beginning:

Γαΐα δὲ χυῖα νε' αὐ χλοερὴν ἐστέψατο ποίην.

"The purple hour of youthful spring has smiled, and the earth has decked her young limbs again with the green grass. Buds press to life, rejoicing in their birth, and the laughing meads drink in the tender dew."

Though more prosaic, and not, perhaps, so sensitive to the wonders of nature as the Greeks, the Romans are not far inferior in their appreciation of her effects. Their literature has many touches which illustrate this; for example, Horace's magic lines, describing the whisper of spring's first breath among the leaves:—

> "Mobilibus veris inhorruit Adventus foliis";

and Virgil's vision of a spring in the morning of the world:

"Avia tum resonant avibus virgulta canoris,
Parturit almus ager, zephyri que tepentibus auris
Laxant arva sinus; superat tener omnibus humor.
(Pampinus) trudit gemmas et frondes explicat omnes.
Non alios prima crescentis origine mundi
Illuxisse dies aliumve habuisse tenorem
Crediderim; ver illud erat; ver magnus agebat
Orbis."

Shakespeare was strictly true to nature when he spoke of the willow growing "aslant a brook,

That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream; "but truer still is Virgil's felicitous

"glauca canentia fronde salicta,"

"the willow silvering o'er with grey-green leaf."

Greeks and Romans alike wax eloquent over the value of trees that bower man from the summer sun with shade. It is a fine description of the oak which occurs in the Anthology:—

"Ye hanging branches of the wide-spreading oak, a retreat of loftiest shade for those who shun the summer's heat, with foliage full, more close than tiling, the haunt of wood doves;" and again:—

"Fair are the laurels, fair the stream bubbling forth under the tree roots; shady far and wide is the thick wood, trembling beneath the zephyrs. To wayfarers there is a defence against thirst and toil and the heat of the sun."

Virgil dwells rapturously on the delights of a shady, secluded retreat, where

"Tall trees over reach to keep us in, Breaking the sunbeams into emerald shafts."

Fine is the picture he draws of a tree, descriptive of its stability and spreading shade:—

"Aesculus in primis, quae, quantum vertice ad auras Aetherias, tantum radice in Tartara tendit. Ergo non hiemes illam, non flabra, neque imbres Convellunt; immota manet, multosque nepotes Multa virum voloens durando saecula vincit. Tum fortis late ramos et brachia tendens Hue illuc, media ipsa ingentem sustinet umbram."

Beautiful, too, is his description of an Elysium:-

"O! qui me gelidis in vallibus Haemi Sistat, et ingenti ramorum protegat umbra."

From the animism which attributed consciousness to all things possessing life, it is an easy transition to the belief that human beings were changed into trees—a favourite theme with poets. Daphne, the beloved of Apollo, but averse to his suit, when followed by him, prayed to Zeus for help. Her prayer was heard, for at the moment when the god was about to clasp her in his arms, her feet took

root in the earth, her arms became branches, and instead of the nymph, Apollo embraced a laurel, which was thenceforth sacred to him. Baucis and Philemon, for their hospitality spared from the destruction in which their churlish neighbours were involved, were for long the guardians of Zeus' temple, and in their old age were transformed into two majestic trees, which flourished throughout the centuries. The "young cypress, tall and dark and straight," recalls the tale of Cyparissus, who died of grief for the stag which he had killed.

died of grief for the stag which he had killed.

The "water-nurtured poplar"—Virgil's "populus in fluviis"—has its place in mythology. The reference in "Tum Phaethontiadas musco circumdat amarae Corticis" is to the three sisters of Phaethon, who, mourning for their brother, hurled by Zeus into the Eridanus, were transformed into poplars growing by the river side. Evelyn mentions the abundant growth of poplars in his day by that river, but with cold philosophy adduces the fact as giving argument to the fiction of the sad sisters' meta-

The value of the oak in all its aspects has been recognised throughout the ages. There was a time when men lived solely on the fruit of trees, and especially on acorns, until Ceres introduced corn as their diet. Thus it was that at the festival in Ceres' honour, the husbandman wore an oak wreath,

"torta redimitus tempora quercu,"

to remind him of his debt of gratitude to the goddess. The Twelve Tables—Rome's ancient code of law—had a special passage enjoining the gathering of acorns, though fallen on another's land. The reference

"habitae Graiis oracula quercus"

reminds us of the esteem in which the oak was held for purposes of divination. From Homeric times, the fame of Dodona as a place of oracles was widespread.

" τὸν δ' ἐς Δωδώνην φάτο βήμεναι, ὅφρα θεοῖο ἐκ δρυὸς ὑψικόμοιο Διὸς βουλὴν ἐπακούσαι."

There Zeus was reputed to abide in one of a brotherhood of venerable oaks, and the sigh of the wind in the leaves and branches was considered the oracular response of the god. Virgil's allusion to the "Chaoniae columbae" carries us back to the time when men were superseded as interpreters of the responses by women, known as πελείαδες, or doves, for doves were said to have conveyed to Dodona the command to found an oracle there.

It is with a feeling akin to regret that one turns from these mythological records and primitive beliefs to the uninspiring commercialism of later ages, so hostile to the poetry in life. Truly

> "The days were brief Whereof the poets talk When that which breathes within the leaf Could slip its bark and walk."

We know what fate that "awful rainbow, once in heaven" has suffered at the hands of cold philosophy.

"We know her woof, her texture; She is writ in the dull catalogue of common things."

It is not otherwise with these old world tree beliefs. Philosophy has clipped the angel's wings; unbelief and scepticism have worked their deadly work. Modern civilisation, indeed, still clings to the Christmas and the May-Day celebrations, once fraught with such import and mystical significance; but the old spirit is gone, and the motive for their performance is forgotten.

"The fair humanities of old religion All have vanished. They live no longer in the faith of reason."

REVIEWS HERRICK

Robert Herrick: A Biographical and Critical Study. By F. W. Moorman. (John Lane. 12s. 6d.)

PATIENT and minute examination has not enabled Mr. Moorman to add another chapter to the story of Herrick's life; but he has given us an interesting critical study of Herrick's poems. It was hardly worth while, however, to include the old Norse Eiriks-Mal-a dirge of Eric Bloodaxe-on the ground that that person was the first English Eric of whom historic legend tells us! Robert Herrick was born in 1591, midway between the early school of English lyrists and the later school of Caroline poets. His father, Nicholas Herrick, a prosperous goldsmith, died early in the November of 1592, and soon afterwards his mother moved to Hampton, in Middlesex, so that the boy Robert, though city-born, was country-bred. On September 25, 1607, the future poet was apprenticed to his uncle William, then Sir William Herrick, goldsmith, of the City of London, but six years afterwards he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, as a fellow-commoner. Here he was to receive from his guardian-uncle £10 a quarter to cover the cost of board, clothes, and tuition; extraordinary items of expenditure were met by extraordinary grants. From the Herrick Papers at Beaumanor we learn that, like many another undergraduate, Herrick was compelled to "runne somewhat deepe into my Tailour's debt," and that he needed money for books and tutors' fees. The twelve years that elapsed between Herrick's graduation at Cambridge in 1617, and his induction as vicar of Dean Prior in 1629, form a very obscure period in his long life: but of his manner of life at Dean Prior we have the traditions preserved in a remarkable account of a visit paid by Baron Field to Dean Prior in 1809, and published in the Quarterly Review of August, 1810. From this we learn that Herrick was "still talked of as a poet, a wit, and a hater of the country," that he kept a pet pig, which he taught to drink out of a tankard, and that he one day their inattention. In 1647 he was ejected from his vicar-age, and set out for the "blest place of his nativity," London, where, according to Wood, he "subsisted by charity until the Restoration." In 1662 he was restored to his old living, where he remained until his death, in

From this meagre chronicle we turn to the record of his life in his "Hesperides," the book that

"Renews the golden world, and holds through all, The holy laws of homely pastoral, Where flowers and founts, and nymphs and semi-gods, And all the Graces find their old abodes."

Mr. Moorman is judicious in his deductions from Herrick's works, and realises that poetry is, after all, the work of imagination. The poet sets up lay-figures, in order to clothe them with the draperies of his fancy. Among the "Hesperides" is a poem entitled "The Parting Verse, or charge to his supposed wife when he travelled," which is from first to last a tissue of pure fancy; while Prudence Baldwin, his housekeeper, lived at least thirty years after her master had written her epitaph and laid her in her "little urn." Realising the poet's love of make-believe, Mr. Moorman doubts the reality of the "Many fragrant mistresses," and is not at all certain that Julia is anything more than a poetic fiction.

But whether Julia be real or ideal, the poems that celebrate her are a possession for ever. What is the secret of the charm of the "Hesperides"? Perhaps the spirit of youth in it. The comparison which is occasionally drawn

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between Herrick and the lyrists of a later day, such as Heine or Shelley, is of little value; it is like a comparison between youth and age. There is, too, a very delightful superficiality, a childlike naïveté in his poems, which appeals to us to-day perhaps more than to his contemporaries.

The thought of death frequently enters his mind when writing his love-poems, and he makes no attempt to put it aside; he takes pleasure in "playing ghost." In his verses "To his lovely mistresses," he bids them come to his grave-

"One night i' the year, my dearest beauties, come And bring those due drink-offerings to my tomb. When thence ye see my reverend ghost to rise, And there to lick th' effused sacrifice.

Though paleness be the livery that I wear, Look ye not wan or colourless for fear.

Trust me, I will not hurt ye, or once show The least grim look, or cast a frown on you. Nor shall the tapers when I'm there burn blue. This I may do, perhaps, as I glide by—
Cast on my girls a glance and loving eye,
Or fold mine arms and sigh."

He takes a childlike delight in the customs and ceremonies observed in his parish at Christmas and Candlemas Eve, Twelfth Night, and St. Distaff's Day; his interest in charms—witness the charm-poems scattered through the pages of the "Hesperides"—is another proof of his childlike attitude. His philosophy, except where he borrows a thought from some Roman moralist, is "not much more profound than Shakespeare's 'Corin,' who knew that the property of rain is to wet, and of fire to burn, and a great cause of the night is lack of the sun." He informs us that all things decay with time, that work precedes wages, and that victory is only possible after conflict; but these plain things are made music of. He is the poet of spring, and his delight is all in what he calls "the succession of the four sweet months—April, May, June, July," and for him winter is an unspeakable desolation.

July," and for him winter is an unspeakable desolation.

Yet, with all this naïveté, Herrick was a scholar and a consummate artist. Like Pasta, he had "greatly felt antiquity"; there are occasions when "he shakes off the fetters of time and place, and stands before us as an inhabitant of that great city which clung for so long to the religion of Numa, and found a peculiar gratification in presenting its offerings of holy meal and spirting salt before the images of its household Lares and Penates." His poem "To Lar" does not read like a dexterous copy of the sentiments and phrases of Horace or Martial, but as an expression of a genuine and simple paganism:

sion of a genuine and simple paganism:

"No more shall I, since I am driven hence,
Devote to thee my grains of frankincense;
No more shall I from mantle-trees hang down,
To honour thee, my little parsley crown.
No more shall I (I fear me) to thee bring,
My chives of garlic for an offering;
No more shall I from henceforth hear a choir
Of merry crickets by my country fire.
Go where I will, thou lucky Lar, stay here,
Warm by a glittering chimney all the year."
His artistic conscience is shown by his lines:

"Better 'twere my book were dead

Than to live not perfected," and by the evidence of the use of the file. This we gather from a comparison between the text of 1648. and earlier manuscript versions of several of his poems among the Ashmole, Harley, Egerton, and Rawlinson MSS. The twenty-three stanzas of the Harleian MS. version of the "Nuptial Song" are reduced in the "Hesperides" to sixteen, though some of the rejected stanzas appear to our minds almost equal to those that are retained. Elsewhere single lines, and whole stanzas, are entirely re-written, with great advantage in respect of style and rhythm. His 'prentice-time to his uncle, the goldsmith and jeweller, was not spent in vain, in that it taught him the necessity of polishing those jewels of his that "from each facet flash a laugh at Time."

THE SHEREEFIAN EMPIRE.

The Passing of the Shereefian Empire. By E. Ashmead Bartlett. (Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 15s. net.)

Mr. Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, the enterprising and fearless war correspondent, has delighted us already with his breezy, soldier-like letters from several seats of war. His book, "Port Arthur: The Siege and Capitulation," has become the standard authority on that remarkable operation of warfare. We welcome his venture in another field, to which he has brought many qualities which make for success, and which have to an unusual extent achieved it. These qualities are sound military judgment, a lively imagination, a considerable knowledge of human nature, and a practised pen. The title is a confession of his faith a faith which he regrets to hold, but which, holding it, he boldly expresses with the hope, which all lovers of ancient dynasties will share with him, that the Shereefian Empire may lose its aloofness and independence "with as little change as possible in the customs and institutions of the Moorish people."

The doom of Morocco was sealed when the Entente Cordiale with France was signed in 1904. England was given a free hand in Egypt, while Morocco was left to the guiding influence of France. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, who fought a gallant fight for Unionism in a Yorkshire constituency at the last election against fearful odds, does not hesitate to reflect how this State contract "marks the radical difference in the views of the Conservative statesman over the disposal of his own property and that which belongs to others."

But the seeds of dissolution in Morocco had been sown when Sultan Mulai Hassan named as his heir the infant son of a pretty Circassian girl. After an admirable protectorate, Abdul Aziz emerged, harem bred and brought up, untrained to rule, a monkey modern sovereign, showing his emancipation in reckless importation of motor cars, bicycles, phonographs, and Teddy bears. Public security fell to pieces. Raisuli kept Kaid Maclean prisoner for months, and for doing so received £15,000 and British protection, instead of the bend of a rope over a branch of a tree. Frenchmen were murdered, while France looked on for a chance, which came at Casablanca. Meanwhile the author has told us all about the Conference at Algeciras with statesmanlike comments, which leave the relations of England, Germany, and France a hundred years ago turning summersault over those of France, England, and Germany at Algeoiras.

When the guns begin to fire Mr. Bartlett is at home. All that portended and all that caused the bombardment of "the White House" (Casablanca) is impartially chronicled, but we must confess that the narrative exposes a sense of humour which is sometimes a little cynical.

Here at Casablanca in 1907 the French repeated our mistake at Alexandria just (to a month) twenty-five years before—the irony of Fate cast itself over the Entente Cordiale. The French bombarded on August 5, and the promised force imposante did not come till the 7th. Then we see how quickly General Drude, who commanded the troops, got hold of the situation, and how regrettable it was that he had not come two days before. The first phase of Mr. Ashmead Bartlett's book is devoted to the doings of this army. In the various fights described, showing the "armée de débarquation" in defence, in reconnaissance, and in attack, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett gives the impression of intimacy with the troops engaged to which he admits the reader. He knows the characteristics of

each individual unit-the French light horseman of the Chasseurs d'Afrique; his Algerian comrade cavalryman, the Spahi; and the country Arab volunteer, the Goumier, on his breedy little mare, who soon became an indispensable auxiliary to all arms in the field. He knows, too, the Tirailleur, who loves his bayonet better than the barrel of his rifle, and the Légionnaire, the soldier of fortune, who loves any arm, and almost any enemy as long as he will put up a scrap. He can even make a comrade of those quick-firing guns which make such a pretty pattern with their filmy balls of bursting shrapnel shell over charging Arab horsemen or footmen lurking under farm or garden walls. Good comrades, too, they are, giving lift and "go" to moving troops and deafening men who must fight motionless to the mosquito-buzz of passing bullets. And the Arabs in the field are just as generously treated as their French foe. It is archaic fighting, and from Tacitus Mr. Ashmead Bartlett finds their forbears, the Numidian horsemen. A leader in a red quilted coat, the Red Caid, is an attractive figure on pages 72 to 75, and crops up again thirty pages later—a very Murat! A technical comparative analysis of the French army concludes this section of the book, which some readers may think is hardly justified by the author's experience of the Colonial army

At Rabat we come to real issues with Morocco, and the secret of the peculiar alcofness of the Shereefian Empire is divulged in the breaking water of the bar of the river Bu-erregreg. There are no harbours from Tangier to The French army at Casablanca, which opens the book, and the Spanish army at Melilla, which closes it, are incidents in the drama which is passing.

intervenes is Morocco itself.

And Morocco itself, from the point of view that (perhaps regrettably) most appeals to Englishmen—commercial enterprise. The author was charged with a mission to acquire all the mining rights of Morocco. Conceive it! Germany, never forgetting that she wants an Atlantic harbour (we were fools not to give her one); France, in her logical way, striving for consecutiveness which never follows logic; England, cordiale, but with much the largest commercial interest of Morocco. There was a cituation at which even the most audacious would have "jinked." But Mr. Ashmead Bartlett did not "jink." He was forbidden by High Diplomacy to go to Fez, and he went. He chose his instruments, he trusted them to a great degree, but not too much, and he drew out of his journey the mining concession which is the sole appendix to his book. It does not seem to have been a prohibitive journey, but we must remember that the author travelled as an ambassador of great interests—a grand seigneur de commerce—and in his daily life "grand seigneur"; that is an open secret. Dealing with civilised gentlefolk, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett had an easy journey to Fez, and he spent days there of strenuous happiness. impression that we get from his writing is that he is not happy if he is not strenuous.

The concession won, but never confirmed, would have made this captain of Lord Salisbury's battalion of Special Reserve (for so the author is) an enemy of Spain; for over a poor little section of Morocco's mineral wealth Spain fought at Melilla. Did she lose or win? No writer will take you backwards or forwards in this unfortunate campaign better than Mr. Ashmead Bartlett does. He is just as happy here as at Casablanca. While the small and efficient force of General Drude, opposed to a brave foe, enlisted his soldiering enthusiasm, the 50,000 men of other quality under General Marina appeal to his sense of pathos. He was more intimately in touch with individuals and units of the Spanish army than of the French, but with all the gaiety which his pen can give, the tale of the operations of nearly 50,000 brave Spaniards leaves us sad. Yes, as Lord Kitchener has just told Australia, there is no craft in which craftmanship is more essential than in soldiering. Mr. Bartlett shows us

how a huge army was ill-handled, ill-fed, ill-considered for its task. But the men and officers were all the time hard and brave, and supremely contended with puerile performances. It is very pathetic, and "a quoi bon?"
True that this Melilla incident is a hastener to the
passing of the Shereefian Empire; but, alas! it is
a danger to the dynasty of Spain. Trouble is not over there yet, for we believe the last words about Melilla. "Harvest is in May. It is all gathered in by mid-June.
The shooting season then begins on the Riff."
Of all the factors that make to prevent dissolution the

author thinks that a strong Mussulman Sultan is the first. Abov eall, the present one is Shereefian—a true son of Prophet's blood—and he has learnt that he must bow to better *iron* than the splendid *blood* of Morocco can handle well. We hope his flag will keep flying.

We will not accuse Mr. Ashmead Bartlett of strict im-

partiality. He has the true camaraderie with an army in the field which is the indispensable quality of a war correspondent. He individualises himself with the army whose hospitality he accepts, for truly the correspondent is a guest, though he may give more dinners than he gets. Without sympathy there is no understanding, and thus the cold-hearted correspondent gives no true reflection of the army with which he serves. Again, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett loves a strong man, and so Moulai el Hafid appeals to him more than his deposed brother. He loves a sporting, cheery, fighting race, and thus does he depict for us that very nice man, the hospitable country Arab. But there is no prejudice in these pages, and there is truth.

We invite our readers to give a little time to the closing

days of a great conquering race—to the passing of the Shereefian Empire, They will not be always in agreement with the author, for Mr. Ashmead Bartlett writes with conviction, and we feel sure he is a personality who often dominates. Still, that all adds to interest, and we ask people to be interested. There are some fine illustrations, and two good maps and a mining concession

are appended.

THE GATES OF INDIA

The Gates of India. By SIR THOMAS HOLDICH, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B. (Macmillan and Co. 10s. net.)

"Since the gates of India have become water gates and the way to India has been the way of the sea, very little has been known of those other landward gates which lie to the north and west." Thus does Sir Thomas Holdich introduce this exhaustive work. But he himself does not approach by so prosaic a path. He follows the victorious march of Alexander the Great, whose "geographic information regarding the main route to be followed and the main objective" he owed to the annals and legends of the Assyrian kings. He follows, too, Chinese pilgrims from the north-a far more rugged path-and he winds along the track of the Arab traders near to the shores of the Arabian Sea. But sea routes to India existed, too, from all times. Sea-going trade brought "ivory, apes, and peacocks to Syrian ports" in the early Israelitish period, and references to these routes are knit into the tale of overland approaches.

Back to the times of the Assyrian Empire the roads to the confines of India were known, and Sir Thomas tells us that since the days of "Tiglath Peleser . . . Northern Afghanistan was to the Assyrian kings the dumping ground of unconsidered companies of conquered slaves." ing on the immensity of the remains of Nineveh, the author declares that the old Assyrian palaces and public works could only have been executed by working parties of captive nations. Wars were made in the interests of construction. Bricks identical with those of Nineveh are now found in Afghanistan, which was included in the Satrapies of Tiglath Peleser, and thus it is no unfair surmise that on the fall of Samaria some of "those ten despairing tribes" should have been deported by Sargon to "colonise his possessions towards India, just as Darius Hystaspes employed the same process... when he deported Greeka to Baktria," which is identified with Badakshan. The germs of Indian art are traced back to Syria, Armenia, and Greece by the path trod by hosts of unwilling immigrants who bore with themselves the rudiments of the arts and industries of the land they had left for ever.

Sir Thomas complains that the great obstacle to research into the origin of Eastern countries and races is the absence of history. Above all, in India, among a mass of literature, little history is found, for the Brahmans had no need of it, "to them the world and all that is in it is illusion . . . and it was worse than idle, it was impious to perpetuate the record of its varied phases as they appeared to pass in unreal pageantry before their eyes;" and thus the record of the Aryan overflow into India can only be gathered imperfectly from the two great epics, the "Mahabharata" and the "Ramayana," just as much of Greek legend has come to us through "the two most delightful epic poems ever written," the Iliad and the Odyssey. The Greeks knew the coasts of the Mediterranean, and Homeric navigation has been confirmed by modern sailors, and so doubtless Egyptians and Arabs knew the coast of the Erithean and Arabian seas. There were geographers and explorers before Herodotus. Too often the explorer is no writer, and thus "vast stores of the earth's physiography is lost to the world for want of expression." This is the difficulty with which the geographical societies of the nations are still wrestling.

Specialising, the march of Alexander is graphically followed from the sunny shores of Macedon to the Indus and beyond. We have brought back to us the value of national spirit. That army was composed of a series of handy homogeneous units led by a great captain. What chance against it had the composite host of Darius, however brave? And Alexander is shown us wherever the task wanted most skill-leading his own light cavalry, executing those flank marches to the north of the Kabul to Kaibar line which ensured a tranquil passage to his main column under Hyphæstion, marching direct from Kabul to Peshawur, just as General Stewart marched on Hyphæstion's route in 1880 with his southern flank unguarded, by smashing the northern warlike tribes first. Thus we see that the laws of strategy hold good for all times, while tactics vary with armament. The passes through which Alexander had to march were a protection to the armoured Greeks against wild tribes without firearms; but they have become a most dangerous road now that the tribesmen are armed with modern rifles. Ptolemy was Alexander's intelligence officer, and one of his bravest leaders. His system of fire signalling by night is given on page 116. Ptolemy afterwards ruled in Egypt. To compare lesser things with great, history has in a sort repeated itself. The best intelligence officer perhaps who has ever served England has for ten years governed the Sudan. The excellence of Alexander's lines of communication is dwelt on, for the ranks of his phalanxes were kept always full, and Indian cattle were sent back over his line of advance to improve the herds of Greece. He took with him a body of the best scientists, and yet but little written record remains of his march—a precedent followed by Napoleon when he went to Egypt.

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The approaches from the north are dealt with less exhaustively. Sir Thomas bases his records principally on the diary of the Chinese pilgrim, Fa Hian, who travelled those roads 400 A.D., and he declares that the pilgrim knew them better than any one knew them twenty-five years ago. The pilgrimages were Buddhist. Their chief house of call on the way to the Indian frontier was Kashmir, but the vast Buddhist remains found near Jellalat remind us that all the north and north-west frontier followed the cult of Buddha before the Mohammedan invasion. The fervour of pilgrims carried them through those northern passes which have ever proved an effectual barrier against even minor raids of armed men.

Ninety pages devoted to Scistan and Afghanistan are not of much interest to any but lovers of ethnology, and careful geographical students. Here the author seeks to restore ancient kingdoms, but his difficulties are great, owing to shifting river-beds, and the vast denudation of mountain sides due to the great contrasts of heat and cold, and to the effect of raging storms; while the features of human monuments have been worn away by the attrition of sand-laden winds. Round the little known Afghan town of Tawara Sir Thomas has reconstructed the kingdom of Ghur, which was so extensive that we read (p. 218) that "prayers in the name of the Ghuri were read from uttermost India to Persia, and from the Oxus to Hormuz." But this section of the book is a bewildering maze of names ancient and modern, and conjecture runs unbridled through them all.

"Between India and Arabia is the strange land of Makran." This strip of Southern Beluchistan, 100 miles deep from the Arabian Sea, which was nearly fatal to Alexander's homeward march, was in old times a route of Arab traders. The diaries on which these records have been compiled are so incomplete and their transliteration has been so variable, that the author's task has been an arduous one. The phenomena of land and sea are written in language as graphic as it is picturesque. The evidences that the route was Arab are found in the abandoned hill terraces and irrigation works, while the valleys are filled with palm groves giving crops of dates (still renowned), the best compressed ration of the Arab on the march. Along this road was pushed by the Kalif Walad I. an invasion of Sind under Mohamed Kasin, only 17 years old—a baby general. Now, once more, this main duct to the Indus valley (while the Arabs held the golden key) has come under keen observation in the course of telegraph construction from Bombay to Persia, and Sir Thomas speculates whether a railway may not in the near future run along the Arab road from Karachi to Ispahan. Out of this old, old history of ancient travel is evolved the basis of more modern exploration, and consequent

It was in 1810 that the arch marauder Napoleon made us mind our ways in India, realising that there were no roads he might not travel. So in 1810, Lieut. Pottinger (afterwards Sir Henry) and a brother officer penetrated into Afghanistan and Persia from the Arabian Sea dressed as horsedealers, and fairly playing the part. Then the American Masson lived in Afghanistan, wore the clothes of the Afghan, and round their camp-fires won to an intimate knowledge of the people for ten continuous years before the first Afghan war. All the early travellers of that epoch are followed, and their experiences recorded; above all, those of Lieut. Wood, a sailor, who penetrated to the source (or to a source) of the Oxus, and thereby wrote his name on the roll of fame as large as Speke and Grant did—winning his laurels in a much harder field, scratching his way through snowdrifts, cutting his steps up glaciers, instead of only enduring the not over-powering heat and damn of the upper White Nile.

ing heat and damp of the upper White Nile.

Sir Thomas Holdich tells us much of what has been done, much of what there remains to do—to archæologists above all his work is valuable. He points to Badakshan as a gold mine unfathomed of archæological lore. And Balkh is the heart of ancient Baktria, a town of layers of cities, one superimposed on the other through many ages. The Balkh, he says, was a commercial centre while Babylon was, and is so still. To the soldier, his comrade, he tells what paths to await attack from, and the paths from which attack is unlikely to come. But on every path he tells his comrades to watch and be strong.

Perhaps this book is a little over-technical for the ordinary reader. But if that be so, it is still lit up by beautiful natural scenes, and by humorous anecdote based on history. It is a mine of wealth for the archæologist and the geographer, and the ethnologist will find in the author a colleague. It is withal written, in good print on good paper, in unfailingly faultless English. The maps are clear and apposite.

Highways and Byways in Literature. By Hugh Farrie. (Williams and Norgate. 5s.)

"Highways and Byways" is a scrap book, a most comprehensive miscellany of very short and not very profound papers. Mr. Farrie has touched upon an amazing number of subjects of general and peculiar interest, and he has not adorned them. He cannot deal greatly with a great subject; and his thoughts on Homer, Sappho, Socrates, and Dante are not worth considering.

It is frivolous to say of Dante, that "all the evidence, internal and external, proves the Vita Nuova to be a pretty artistic experiment. To begin with, intense passion is rarely articulate, and the passion which expresses itself in sonnets accompanied by an epexegetic commentary is incomprehensible."

But in dealing in a small way with a small subject—in the section that is given over to forgotten books—he can continue to be very entertaining. How many people to-day read Christopher Christian Sturm's absurd "Reflections for every day in the year on the Works of God," which saw the light in 1775, and had a vogue much longer and considerably wider than the most successful novels of modern times have obtained, or are likely to obtain. It was translated into French, English, Dutch, Danish, and Swedish. The philosophy of Sturm tends to the conviction that man exists under the best of all possible conditions, and he expresses a devout thankfulness for the presence of fertilising saltpetre in snow. One of the most amusing paragraphs relates an ingenious calculation of the number of risen bodies that will be present at the general resurrection. Sturm takes an average of the yearly number of deaths in the town of Hamburg from the date of the Flood; then, by a bold speculation as to the date of the Millennium, he is able to continue his average to the end of time. All that remains to be done is to express a proportion between the number of inhabitants of Hamburg and the number of inhabitants of the world, and Sturm is able to inform us that the total sum of human beings who will be present on the occasion referred to amounts to one hundred and ten thousand three hundred and seventy-five millions. Nothing could be more convincing.

FICTION

A Modern Chronicle. By Winston Churchill. (Macmillan. 6s.)

"A Modern Chronicle" is the history of Honora Leffingwell, whom one expects to turn out as badly as her father, who understood to a nicety the art of dress and indebtedness, and who filled with grace the post of United States Consul at Nice. "He was the equal in appearance and manner of any duke who lingered beside classic seas, but unfortunately his income was not ducal, and, on his early death, Honora is consigned to poverty and an uncle. The young Honora is not a sympathetic character; she is ambitious, and has the knack of sowing discord and despair. She marries a young stockbroker, Howard Spence, whose essential mediocrity is cleverly suggested, and finds domestic virtue difficult of attainment. As she "moves blindly toward the ideal" her eyes are opened to Spence's inadequacy as a husband, and, at the same time, she falls in love with Hugh Chiltern, whom she pictures as "a modern Viking." The only door to pictures as "a modern Viking." The only door to liberty and the pursuit of happiness is, she thinks, divorce, and, her "heart aching at the ugliness and crudity of the twentieth century," she goes to reside for a year in a Western State, for, as the author ironically declares, "by a wise provision in the constitution of our glorious American Union, no one State could tie the nuptial knot so tight that another State could not cut it at a blow." Yet even the easy and ignoble devices of divorce are too slow. "Why travel? Why have to put up with all the useless expense and worry and waste of time? Why not have one's divorce sent C.O.D. to one's door, or establish a new branch of the Post Office department?" With blind precipitancy, Honora marries her Viking, but finds herself ostracised by her neighbours at Grenoble. Hugh Chiltern goes to pieces before her eyes, and her brief married life ends in ruin. However, four years afterwards, Honora marries an old lover, the strong and silent Peter Erwin, who finds that the horrors she has been through have "strangely ennobled her." Honora's story is pleasantly and skilfully written.

Mad Shepherds and Other Human Studies. By L. P.

JACKS. (Williams and Norgate. 4s. 6d.)

"Mad Shepherds" is an extraordinary book. It purports to be the study of "two notable men and one highly-gifted woman," who redeem a small parish from monotony, where "their graves form a group, unsung by any poet, but worthy to be counted among the resting-places of the mighty." The account of the two mad shepherds staggers credulity. The story of Shepherd Toller, who goes back to the stone age, and kills the sheep of the country round with a flint axe, which he discovered in a barrow, is well and vigorously told; but the picture of the eccentric shepherd, Snailey Bob, can hardly be accepted as a "human study." Bob, we are told, narrowly escaped detention as a lunatic, and the accounts of his mysticism, star-gazing, dabbling in black or blackish arts, his invisible companion whom he called "the master," or the "tall shepherd," with whom he claimed to be on terms of intimacy, which go beyond the utmost reaches of authentic mysticism, make this extremely probable. In spite of the freakishness of the book, the picture of Bob's peculiar mental constitution and his death is presented with a certain force and impressiveness.

SHORT VIEWS.—IV.

ON IRREVERENCE.

WHEN Lord Rosebery in his recent speech mentioned that the House of Lords was the direct descendant of the old Anglo-Saxon Witanagemot, or assembly of wise men, he touched on a point which is of peculiar interest and importance. It has often been pointed out in the past, and especially by that most illuminating writer the late Walter Bagehot, that the English nation as a whole has great reverence for old institutions and laws. In spite of Vasari's dictum that "things modern are as good as things old, provided they be excellent," it is nevertheless a certain fact that a halo of reverence and respect encircles ancient Not only in this respect is it true that reverence is a characteristic of our nation, but also in another respect. It has always been a marked feature national character that we are a deferential people -that is, the lower classes are willing to a greater or less extent to defer the business of government to the better-educated classes. Since the Reform Acts of 1832 and 1867 this trait has become less marked. The reason why the Americans possess so little reverence is that they have few or no ties which bind them to the past; they have no hereditary monarch, and all their institutions savour of modernness. Perhaps it will be thought that is an advantage. The consideration of this point does certainly afford us food for reflection. One thing, at any rate, is certain; it is altogether impossible for nations which have a great and glorious past to shake themselves loose from it; all their most important ideas are bound up with the traditions of the ages which have gone by. It may be said with truth that this is an age of increasing irreverence. Whether it is America and the newer countries of the West which have been showing the way to this, is impossible to say. At any rate, it is a certain fact that all our most cherished ideas are being assailed; what with new-fangled sceptics bringing forward new theologies, what with sceptics bringing forward new theologies, what with squawking suffragettes, and what with iconoclastic politicians, all our oldest-established institutions and ideas seem to be "going by the board." Now, this is sheer d lf

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irreverence. Every wise and thoughtful individual knows that existing institutions should be touched with a very gentle hand. Of no institution is this more true than of the Upper House of this country—the great hereditary chamber which inherits such glorious traditions must not be swept away, although this course would please many of the irreverent iconoclasts of to-day. The House of Lords stands for all that is most stable in our constitution. If it should be abolished in a sudden gust of public tion. If it should be abolished in a sudden gust of public feeling it could never be replaced by any Chamber which possesses all those traditions and sentiments which age alone can bestow.

In conclusion, let us remember that ancient institutions are not always necessarily the best, though this is generally the case. If reform is necessary, reformers should have that great gift of "conservative innovation" the capacity of matching new ideas to old. It is so easy to pull down, so hard to build up.

"Old things need not be therefore true,

O brother men, nor yet the new; Ah, still awhile the old thought retain, And yet consider it again."

But in this age of irreverence we refuse to "consider it again."

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES

PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Proceedings at the meeting held April 8, Prof. H. L. Callendar, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

A paper entitled "Demonstration of Telephone Currents in Loaded and Unloaded Lines" was read by Mr. B. S. Cohen. The demonstration showed the relationship between the sent and received currents in telephone lines under the various conditions which occur in practice. As mentioned by Prof. Perry in his paper read before the Society a few weeks ago, it is of little or no practical value to make calculations on the current attenuation in lines of infinite length and with the terminal conditions neglected. The effects of the line length and of the terminal apparatus must be taken into account. By the said of Prof. Kennelly's formula it is possible to advantage aid of Prof. Kennelly's formulæ it is possible to calculate the relationship between the sent and received currents under any conditions met with in practice, and for some of the conditions used in the demonstration the calculated results had been obtained. Four essentials were necessary for the experiments shown: (1) A current comparable to the actual telephonic speech current. This was obtained from a vibrating wire interrupter giving a wave with a fundamental of about 100 - per second with a damped oscillation of about 800 - per second superimposed. (2) A telephone line with or without its load in the shape of inductance coils. (3) Terminal apparatus. The lines were terminated by receivers and induction coils as used were terminated by receivers and induction coils as used in practice for what is known as local battery working.

(4) Current measurers. For this purpose barretters arranged as alternating current ammeters were used. The first experiment showed the relationship between the received and sent current for various lengths of standard cable unloaded. The second experiment illustrated the variation in the current sent when the receiving end was open or closed circuited and the length of cable was varied. The third experiment showed the current distribution along the loaded cable by inserting a barretter at different points along the cable. The author gave explanations of the various phenomena illustrated in the experiments. He pointed out that it is now possible to make both calcula-tions and quantitative telephonic tests which give mutual confirmation.

Dr. A. Russell congratulated Mr. Cohen on the admirable demonstration he had given of the effects of "loading" a telephone cable with Pupin coils. He pointed out that much of the success of the demonstration was due to the barretters and the vibrating wire generator which Mr. Cohen had himself perfected. It was now well known that the effect of the loading coils was to improve both the volume of the sound and the clearness of the articulation. He asked whether the diminution in the value of the attenuation constant and the consequent increase in the volume of the sound, or whether the equalising of the velocities of the damped trains of waves proceeding along the wires was of the greater importance in practice. He asked also whether the Pupin coils were inserted in such a way that the going and return currents tended to magnetise the cores of the coils in the same direction. He suggested that the higher efficiency of the loaded cable might be partly due to the diminution in the value of the current and the consequent increase in the value of the potential at the sending end, the gain in efficiency due to this cause being due simply to the smaller expendi-ture of energy in heating the wires.

Mr. A. Campbell asked what was the minimum current

which would give reasonably clear speech, and what was the usual ratio between the current received and the current sent in good working conditions. The author had used frequencies of 800 - per second. If a line were loaded so as to transmit well at this frequency, would it transmit equally well at frequency 2,000? Mr. Whalley remarked that the experiments shown did not quite conform with working conditions where constant currents were flowing. He asked whether the results would agree with those which would be obtained with constant currents

flowing in the circuit.
Dr. W. H. Eccles called attention to an apparent paradox which arose when the barretter at the receiving end was giving a larger reading than the similar instru-ment at the sending end of a cable. The barretter deflexions were, of course, a measure of the power being spent in the instrument, and the paradox might be expressed by saying that in the above circumstances the power indicated at the receiving end was greater than that indicated at the sending end. The series of detached trains of oscillations produced by the author's vibrating wire interrupter led to difficulties in the mathematical discussion of cable problems which were vastly greater than those met with in the sine wave problem, for which alone the currently used formulæ were correct. He asked how far experimental results obtained with damped trains disagreed with the sine wave formulæ. For practical purposes the damped trains used by the author were a better imitation of speech sounds than pure sine oscillations. He asked if the indication of a barretter when used with ordinary speech sounds, or with damped trains, corresponded strictly with the volume of sound.

The author, in reply to Dr. Russell's remarks about the diminution of the attenuation constant, said that, by loading, both advantages referred to were obtained. The limit was determined in practice by the volume of sound transmitted, and not by articulation conditions. In reply to Mr. Campbell he said he was working with an attenua-Mr. Campbell he said he was working with an attenua-tion of 1.5 per cent. and the sending current was 3 or 4 milliamperes. The apparatus would work quite well up to frequencies of 1,500. In reply to Mr. Whalley, he said that increasing the current in the circuits up to regard to the remarks of Dr. Eccles, he said that the barretters he was using were measuring current and not energy. The current received was a most important factor in determining the volume of sound transmitted.

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

At the ordinary meeting on Tuesday, April 19, Mr. J. C. Inglis (president) in the chair, the Paper read was "The Use of Reinforced Concrete on the Wabash Railway, U.S.A.," by E. R. Matthews, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., and A. O. Cunningham, M.Am.Soc.C.E. The following is an abstract of the Paper:-

This Paper describes the methods of design and construction employed in the use of reinforced concrete for various structures on the Wabash Railroad in the United States, and the Paper is presented in the hope that it may elicit the experience of other engineers who have carried out work of a similar character. Railway engineers, it is stated, were among the first in the United States to recognise the advantages of using reinferced concrete in engineering construction, and this material has now been used extensively on the railways there, more particularly in the building of bridges, culverts, subways and retaining-walls. The Wabash Railroad Company was one of the pioneers in such construction, having commenced its use as early as 1902. This railway is one of the leading lines in the Middle West, and has a total length of 2,500 miles. Its headquarters are at St. Louis, and it extends to the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, and Buffalo on the east of the Mississippi River, and to Kansas City, Des Moines, and Omaha on the west.

In this Paper examples of bridges, culverts, and pipes in reinforced concrete are described. In designing the structures referred to, the live load was assumed to be equivalent to two coupled "Consolidation" engines and tenders, followed by a uniform train-load, placed so as to give the greatest stress in the structure. Impact stresses, which are taken as equal to the square of the maximum live-load stress divided by the sum of the dead- and live-load stresses, are allowed for; and the working-stresses are obtained by combining the maximum dead-load, live-load and impact stresses. The unit stresses allowed are:—

Lbs.	per sq.	in
Steel, tension on net section of rod	18,000	
Steel, bond on deformed bars	100	•
Concrete, compression in cross bending	800	
Concrete, direct compression	600	
Concrete, shear (diagonal tension) in plain concrete	30	
Concrete, shear (diagonal tension) when web is properly reinforced	100	

the steel bars being specified to have an elastic limit of 55,000 to 65,000 lbs. (24.5 to 29 tons) per square inch, and the concrete to consist of one part of Portland cement, two of sand, and four of stone or gravel. In proportioning the concrete and steel the formulas devised by Professor Talbot, of the University of Illinois, were employed. Most of the reinforcement used in the structures referred to in this Paper consists of corrugated bars in the form invented by Mr. A. L. Johnson. These bars are square in section, with corrugations on all four sides, the sides of the ribs being practically at right angles to the axis of the bar. The bars are rolled from high-carbon steel, with a breaking stress of about 105,000 lbs. (47 tons) per square inch, and an elastic limit of 66,600 lbs. (30 tons) per square inch. The concrete was what might be termed a wet mixing. ture, it being the usual practice in the United States in reinforced-concrete work to put in the concrete in this manner. The advantages of so doing are, first, that a more dense and homogeneous concrete is obtained; and, secondly, that the reinforcement becomes better imbedded, every portion of it being well covered by the cement; rusting of the metal is thus prevented. The authors state that any fear as to the excess of water weakening the concrete has been proved to be groundless by the experiments carried out by Mr. G. W. Rafter for the State Engineer's office of New York.

Among the bridges described in the Paper are the Sangamon River Bridge, and a bridge in Forest Park, St. Louis. The Sangamon Bridge is a double-line, four-arched skew-bridge with abutments and arches of reinforced concrete and piers of solid concrete, reinforced at the base and toes. Each pier is carried on timber piles driven into very stiff clay. The angle of skew is 45 degrees; each arch has a semi-circular square span of 61 ft. in the clear, and a skew span of 100 ft. between centres of piers. The arch rings are heavily reinforced with upper and lower ribs of 1-inch square rods 12 inches apart, crossed by 1-inch square rods about 4 feet apart, laid parallel with the piers. The joints in the ribs are formed by overlapping the rods. The minimum cover over the reinforcement is 2 inches, and the thickness of the concrete below the ribs in the arches varies from 6 inches at the crown to 24 inches at the springing. The features of

particular interest in this bridge are the abutments and the method of providing square bearings for the arch-ribs at the skew-backs. The abutments are practically boxes divided by horizontal and vertical partitions into four compartments. The slab for carrying the road-bed is rein-forced with longitudinal rods 24 inches, and transverse rods 4 inches, apart, the ends of alternate rods being bent up at an angle of 45 degrees. The cost of this bridge was £25,100. The Forest Park bridge consists of concrete abutments carrying an 80-foot double-line, through-girder bridge. The abutments are of the hollow type, namely, thin reinforced face-walls supported by counterforts rest-ing on slab foundations. The principal features are the curved wing-walls, the concrete facia and balustrade carried by the outside girders, and the other ornsmental concrete work. The counterforts not only carry the girders, but also act as ties to hold the face-wall of the abutments. The reinforcement in the abutments consist of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch square corrugated rods. The bridge-floor is of concrete 8 inches thick, and is reinforced in both faces with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rods. This floor-slab is carried on 15-inch steel \mathbf{I} -beams, which are riveted by connecting angles to the webs of the girders, and are spaced 18 inches apart between centres. This substructure and the ornamental work were constructed by contract, but the railway com-pany erected the steelwork themselves. The cost was pany erected the steelwork themselves. The cost was £4,565, but this included the removal of an old bridge and its stone substructure; also a large amount of excavation on account of increasing the width of the opening, and the necessary temporary bridging to provide for the traffic. As this bridge was built during the St. Louis World's Fair, and as more than 300 trains crossed it per day, it was impossible to remove the extra earth and the old bridge with trains, so that it was necessary to do this work with teams at a higher cost.

Illustrations are given of alternative arrangements of solid reinforced-concrete floors for various types of bridges, the cost of which varies between 16s. and 20s. per lineal foot of floor 13 feet wide. Where it is necessary to have a watertight floor a mixture of 1 part of cement and 3 parts of coarse sand is used, but where watertightness is not necessary, e.g., where the bridge crosses a stream, the slab is made of the normal 1:2:4 concrete. In connection with the waterproofing of reinforced-concrete struc-tures, allusion is made to a bridge built two years ago over Junction Avenue, an important street in Detroit. This is a solid-floor plate-girder bridge, which it was necessary to make absolutely watertight; and the waterproofing on the top of the main floor was specified to consist of a 1-inch coating of Wunner bitumen emulsion, cement, and sand. This was not done, however, the bitumen emulsion being mixed directly in the main body of the concrete, making this particular work rather expensive, but satisfactory, as no leaks have occurred since the bridge was erected. The steel-plate girders are each 72 inches deep and 61 feet 7 inches in length over all, and between them are 12-inch steel I-girders, on which the floor system is carried. The floor-beams are surrounded by concrete, which is reinforced with Linch square longitudinal and transverse rods. The upper surface of the concrete is covered with a 1-to-3 bitumen mortar, which consists of 2 lbs. of bitumen emulsion to every sack of cement (90 lbs.) and 300 lbs. of sand. The cost of this floor was £2 14s. 5d. per lineal foot. Standard designs are adopted for reinforced-concrete box culverts for spans ranging from 4 feet to 20 feet, and illustrations are given of the reinforcement adopted in the 10-foot and 20-foot culverts. In the larger sizes the reinforcement in the top and bottom slabs and the side walls is supplemented by diagonal reinforcement at the four angles of the section. Reinforced-concrete pipes are made in 3-foot sections with a diameter varying from 2 feet to 4 feet. The reinforcement consists of woven-wire fencing, supplemented by 4-inch longitudinal bars. In the construction of the pipes inside and outside forms are used, the casing being 2 inches in thickness, and lined with No. 20-gauge galvanized iron. The 4-foot pipes are 4 inches in thickness, the inside and outside reinforce10

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ments having a 1-inch covering of concrete. The cost for a 3-foot length is approximately: -

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2	feet in	diameter	 11.4		25	***	13	6	
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and the form is estimated to cost £4 1s. 8d. formerly the custom to use pipes 8 feet in length, but in order to make them of this length it was found necessary to use derricks in handling the forms, and platforms to do the pouring from. Further, in shipping 8-foot lengths it was necessary to pay particular attention to blocking, so that the pipes would not roll and break themselves to pieces. For these reasons it was decided to build a pipe of such length that the forms could be handled by two men, and could be filled from the ground without the use of platforms. It is still found necessary to load the pipes by means of derricks, but they can be shipped on end and unloaded and placed in position without machinery.

No special test-loads are used to test a structure after it is completed, as this is considered unnecessary. Inspections are made on all bridges on the Wabash Railway, including, of course, reinforced-concrete structures, by a competent inspector once every month. The engineers in charge of the divisions on which the bridges are situated also inspect them each half-year. The authors state that also inspect them each nair-year. The authors state that none of the many reinforced-concrete structures on this railway have needed any repairs since they were built. They are very rigid under loads, and their appearance indicates that they will outlast any other kind of structure, and require no maintenance. A great many have now been in the track more than five years, carrying loads very nearly as heavy as the live load used in designing them. Attempts have been made to determine the deflection in reinforced-concrete structures due to train-loads, but none reinforced-concrete structures due to train-loads, but none can be detected under ordinary measurements. can be detected under ordinary measurements. It is considered that sufficient time has now elapsed to demonstrate the fact that reinforced-concrete is reliable; it is undoubtedly permanent, and as good, if not better, than cut stone for the construction of bridges, culverts, and similar work; it is certainly cheaper. Compared with steel, reinforced-concrete is altogether superior, as it requires no maintenance. It is thus in most cases preferable to other kinds of construction, and is used where possible on the Wabash Railroad. The works described in the Paper have been designed and carried out by Mr. A. O. Paper have been designed and carried out by Mr. A. O. Cunningham, Chief Engineer to the Company.

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening, the 20th instant, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. H. Mellish, F.R.G.S., President, in the chair.

A paper by Mr. R. G. K. Lempfert and R. Corless on "Line Squalls and Associated Phenomena," which had been read at the society's meeting at Manchester on February 23, was brought forward on the present occasion for discussion. A line-squall is usually associated with the displacement of an air current moving from South-West by a colder current from North-West. The author investigated the phenomena associated with several well-marked line-squalls, and showed by maps with isochronous lines the direction of front, and the rate of advance of the

various storms across the country.

A paper by Mr. W. C. Nash was also read on the "Daily Rainfall at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 1841-1903. From the statistics given in this paper, it was shown that the average annual rainfall for the sixty-three years was 24.19 inches, with 157 rain days. The day with the maximum number of rain days to its credit is December 5, while the days with the least number of rain days are April 18, 19, June 27, and September 13. There were ninety-four occasions during the whole period on which the rainfall exceeded one inch in the day. The greatest fall was 3.67 inches on July 26, 1867.

CORRESPONDENCE

AN APPARENT ERROR.

To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

SIR,-I beg to solicit the favour of submitting the following points for your comments and for the comments of such of your

points for your comments and for the comments of such of your readers as generally take interest in philological questions:

Macaulay, in one of his letters to Napier, says: "Surely it would be desirable that some person who knew Sir Walter.... should be charged with this article." To the expression "it would be desirable," Hodgson takes exception, on the ground that Macaulay ought to have said: "It is desirable," or "It would be a good thing."

The question now arises: Which of them is right? My humble opinion is that "It is desirable" and "It would be desirable" are both good; and custom has made them synonymous, just like the impersonal forms of the neuter verb parattre (il paratt, il parattrait), which are, at times, also synonymous; with this difference, however, that, in the latter, to my mind, the doubt is greater than in the former. The following is a case in point. It is an extract from the Petit Parisien, the articles of which are generally written in good modern French prose :-

Almost Certain Datum.

(a) "Le rosier de Charlemagne existe de nos jours à Heldersheim. Il fut, paratt-il, planté par l'empereur lui-même."

The meaning of paratt-il, here, is this: the information seems to be correct, because everyone says it is so. Therefore, il paraît is correctly employed.

Doubtful Datum.

(b) "Il y a, dit-on, à Southampton, un vieux chêne qui était doué du plus merveilleux des pouvoirs. Il guérissait les malades. De grandes maladies furent, paraît-il, tout d'un coup enrayées par l'influence de cet arbre. De tels faits laissent sceptiques, etc."

I submit that, here, the writer ought to have said parattrait-il, as the fact related in connection with the miracles of the tree seems to be more doubtful than in paragraph (a).

Quite recently, I saw in one of the leading French papers: "Ménélik vivrait toujours." Of course, the meaning of that apparent conditional is: "Il parastrait, d'après ce que disent quelques personnes, que Ménélik vit encore," or, rather, "serait encore vivant." Here, there is great doubt in the mind of the writer. In other words, he meant this: —"Je crois que la nouvelle de la mort de Ménélik est certaine, quoiqu'on dise le

The above remarks bring me naturally to inquire, for my own guidance and for that of other foreign students of English, whether the expression: "it should seem," used by Shakespeare, Macaulay, Boswell, and others, is correct or not.

I beg to submit my humble opinion, for the criticism of my readers, that "it should seem," as a synonym of "it would seem " (il parastrait, il semblerait) is unnecessary and undesirable, so long as "it would seem" enjoys its well-merited popularity.

Wright, in his "English Dialect Dictionary," and the authors of "The King's English" consider "it should seem" as an I approve of this practical way of simplifying the already too complicated grammatical questions; but, on the other hand, I think that, in the following sentence, Macaulay uses "it should seem" as a kind of adverbial phrase, giving it the sense of apparently, seemingly.

"Odd that two lines of a Il est étrange que deux lignes damned play, and, it should d'une pièce sifflée, et, parafeeem (= apparently), a justly trait-il (=et apparemment), une damned play, should have lived pièce sifflée à juste titre, aient near a century and have be-vécu près d'un siècle et soient come proverbial." devenues proverbiales.

devenues proverbiales.

Macaulay.

There is, however, a case in which "it should seem" is neither an idiom nor an adverbial phrase, but a true imperfect subjunctive, having the meaning of "qu'il ne semblât," "qu'il ne parût," in French, and is, to my mind, perfectly good English. In this case, as in many others, a knowledge of French goes far to help the student in the study of English:

"This alteration compelled me to give up the title under which the first of these letters appeared, lest by still retaining that title, it should seem, to those persons unacquainted with the controversy, to imply that I had actually written a defence of my opponent's book." (A defence of Dean Alford's "Queen's English.") G. W. Moon.

Ce changement me força de renoncer au titre sous lequel la première de ces lettres parut, de peur que les personnes qui ne seraient pas au courant de la polémique, ne fussent sous l'impression (de peur qu'il ne semblât, qu'il ne parût à ces personnes) que j'avais en réalité écrit un plaidoyer en faveur du livre de mon adversaire.

Now, let us return to it is as the equivalent of it would be. The departure from the sequence of tenses in the case of it is for it would be, led Nesfield to come to the conclusion that, in certain cases (as I shall do my best to prove further on), "It is" and "It would be" are nearly synonymous; and he says:—"In such sentences as the following:—'It is a pity that he should behave thus,' the sequence is irregular, and appears to have risen from a confusion between two constructions."

"This" he suggests "might be sailt into two constructions in

"This," he suggests, "might be split into two sentences, in each of which the sequence is correct and regular:—
It would be a pity that (if) he should behave thus.
It is a pity that he does behave thus."
In my humble opinion, the truth must lie in the fact that, in all similar constructions, the early English writers must have allowed themselves to be influenced by French authors, who have been in the habit of using the gallicism "il parattrait," in the present indicative, as an equivalent of "il paratt"; just like the expression "je voudrais" (I should like), which is still employed, out of courtesy, for "je veux" and "je désire," which sayour too much of command. savour too much of command.

Example:-

Madame, je voudrais un livre Madam, I should like to have = je désire un livre) pour ma a book (= I want a book) for my wife and my daughter.

femme et ma fille.

Labiche's "Le Voyage de M. Perrichon" (end of 1st act).

Perrichon, in spite of his being a commonplace man, feels that, by saying "je veux," "je desire," he would be somewhat rude to the bookseller; in fact, "je voudrais" carries with it the understood polite consequent:—"Si vous vouliez bien me servir," or "si vous vouliez bien me permettre d'acheter," etc.

The same apparent conditional form exists in English in the expressions in daily use:—"Should he call, if he should call now, you will tell him that I am not at home," an idiomatic now, you will tell him that I am not at home," an idiomatic conditional expression, conveying a present or future meaning, and is equivalent to "if he calls" (s'il vient), "if he happens to call," "if he shall call" (dans le cas où il viendra, s'il vient par hasard). But, of course, when the English wish to convey the genuine conditional in the principal tense, the hypothetical present or future becomes the hypothetical imperfect, by virtue of the sequence of tenses that "an imperfect or past tense requires a conditional mood or a past tense."

Example:

S'il venait (dans le cas où il viendrait), vous lui diriez que Should he call, or if he should call (= if he called, if he hap-pened to call, if he were to call), you would tell him that I am je suis sorti. not at home.

Example of the influence of an imperfect indicative on a hypothetical conditional, quoted from "The King's English."

If he should come, you would
learn how matter stands.

S'il venait, vous apprendriez de quoi il retourne.

S'il venait, vous apprendriez de quoi il retourne. The King's English.

Here, I beg to submit that "if he should come" has the sense of "should he come," "if he were to come," "if he came," "if he happened to come," etc.

The above considerations have induced me, out of the interest I take in the study of philology, to look into the point most carefully, and I respectfully beg to submit to my readers the result of that study.

In very many sentences such as "Il est nécessaire," "il est important," etc., the substantive verb être is used as an impersonal verb, and is equivalent to "il serait nécessaire," "il serait important"; hence the reason why should is generally used by English writers or speakers in the subordinate clause.

Example:

Il est nécessaire qu'il aille It is necessary (= it would be = il serait nécessaire qu'il necessary) that he should go.

Examples from English authors:

"That men of thirty should Il semble très absurde (= il be bribed to continue their semblerait très absurde qu'il education into mature life fât nécessaire) qu'il soit nécesseems very absurd " (= it saire de stimuler des hommes would seem very absurd, etc.). de trente ans pour les engager à continuer leur éducation jusqu'à l'âge mûr. Macaulay.

lington's speech at a recent meeting of the L.C.C.

"It is not necessary (= it would not be necessary) for us to insist that the people who drive fat oxen should themselves be fat." The Academy.

"It is of the utmost importance (= it would be of the utmost importance) that the study of literature in these schools should not be merely academic in character—a grammatical study of words and phrases."

(Extract from Mrs. M. Millington's speech at a recent in list of the utmost importance (= it would be of the utmost importance (= it would be of the utmost importance (= it serait de la plus haute importance (= it serait pas simplement un caracter—a grammatical study of words and phrases."

In the following sentence, however, with due deference to Jane Austen, I beg to submit that there was some "confusion" in her mind, to use Nesfield's expression, when she wrote:—"It is fortunate for Emma that there should be such a girl in Highbury for her to associate with." As the fact, here, is positive, as the thing really exists, the expression "It would be fortunate" cannot, to my mind, be substituted for "It is fortunate"; hence I would take the liberty to suggest that the present indicative "that there is" be used instead of "that there should be" in this sentence. Here is an example in point:—"Finished the second reading of Lucretius this day, March 24, 1835. It is a great pity that the poem is in an unfinished state." (Extract from Macaulay's diary, vide Appendix, p. 689, "Life and Letters," etc.) Letters,"

But it is impossible to use the expression it is as a conditional when it has to convey an order, a command, etc., either in the present or in the future tense. In that case, "it is," by virtue of the sequence of tenses, is strictly in the present tense of the indicative mood, which requires shall in the noun-sentence that follows it.

Example:-

It is the law of our nature that such fits of excitement (= shall always be followed by re-order Macaulay. missions.

It is a maxim of English law, that every man shall be held to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty. Dr. Molloy.

The Prince has given instructions (= it has been ordered by the Prince) that medical bul-letins shall be issued twice a day.

The Times.

day. The Times.

In a word, I am determined (= it has been determined by me) that the dignity of the law shall be respected, and that the Assize Court shall not be turned into a music-hall.

(Ex. fr. the speech of an English judge in 1910.)

The King has been pleased (= it has pleased the King, etc.) to direct that the holders of scholarships of His Majesty's Government shall be styled "King Edward VII.'s scholars."

The Times Weekly Edition.

Il a plu au roi de donner l'ordre que les (élèves) boursiers du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté soient appelés "Elèves du roi Edouard VII."

C'est la loi de notre nature

(= il est établi, arrêté, ordonné par la loi de notre nature) que de pareils accès d'excitation soient toujours suivis de calme.

Il est une maxime de la juris

prudence anglaise (qui veut) que tout homme soit considéré

innocent, jusqu'à ce que sa culpabilité soit prouvée. Le Prince a donné des in-

structions pour que (= l'ordre a été reçu du Prince que) des bul letins médicaux soient délivrés

deux fois par jour.

En un mot, je swis décidé à faire respecter (= il a été décidé par moi, etc.) la dignité de la loi, et à ce que la Cour d'Assises ne soit pas convertie en salle de concert.

As far as the imperiect subjunctive is concerned, the rule connected with the sequence of tenses is strictly adhered to by all English writers and speakers.

Example:-

It was necessary that I should Il était nécessaire que je find responsible bail. trouvasse une caution.

W. Collins.

Etc., etc., etc.

A FRENCH LINGUIST.

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"VOX STELLARIIM "

To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

To the Editor of The Academy.

Sir,—Mr. Mee, in offering a description of proof that the horoscope per se does reveal a body of details as to the "character of the individual and probable trend of his life," asks me to explain away the results of a test horoscopic reading which "immensely staggered" both Mr. W. T. Stead, of the Review of Reviews, and Mr. Peerson, of Pearson's Weekly, fames, and which was published in Borderland. I have not seen Borderland, but have read the account in the Review of Reviews, May, 1900, and have carefully studied Mr. Geo. Wilde's account in his work on "Chaldean Astrology Up to Date," 1901 edition. In this latter work the author begins by telling his readers that "as an example of how to read the horoscope we reprint the test horoscope which appeared in Borderland and Pearson's Weekly." Continuing, he says: "Only the birth-date was given, and about a dozen astrologers and students accepted the test. But his horoscope alone vindicated astrology" (p. 112). The italics are mine.

In the same work, and on the next page, we are told that for several reasons the "test dwindled down to one horoscope cast by one astrologer" (p. 114).

I am not prepared to say what motive underlay such a contradiction; yet I know we are all liable to err. If Mr. Wilde's idea was to show his system as being superior to that of others, we must all admit such is not a proper course to adopt; if, on the other hand, some unconscious cerebration or other factor was at work, and so caused him to err, then he is to be pitied. However, the latter mental condition gives us a fairly concise view of a state of mind the astrologer is in when he is reading a complex and mystifying horoscopic map or chart. There is really no hit-and-miss principle involved in the reading, but when the astrologer tells one that there are quite a number of factors at work to nullify a reading, one cannot help concluding to a degree there is somewhat of a hit-and-miss principle behind a horoscope cast under such conditions, after all—i.e.,

planetary influences are a myth.

Astrological rules are mere generalisations, from which almost anything of a mental character can be evolved. Further, an astrologer do not want to pay for what Astrological rules are mere generalisations, from which almost anything of a mental character can be evolved. Further, people consulting an astrologer do not want to pay for what they already know of themselves, that is, if they are either business or common-sense people; and, again, when astrologers ground themselves into the knowledge available on thought transference, telepathy, spirit communion, and a host of other theories to account for the transference of messages and the inner characteristics of their querists' lives, I have no doubt but that, as far as mental influence is concerned, they will alter their ideas concerning a planet being immediate cause. Astrologers should be psychologists, not of a materialistic trend, but of a wholesome psychology. Then, if they were true to themselves, particularly those who profess Christianity, they would give up astrology. I have said also in a previous communication to THE ACADEMY³ that there was a similarity between ordinary drunkenness and an astrological mentality, and no astrologer has come forward to contradict that statement either; therefore, from that point of view, I stigmatise the horoscope to which I have been referred as scientific taplash. I am prepared to prove what I say.

Now, in turn, I ask Mr. Mee to tell the public what he thinks of this horoscopic reading:—

"Horoscope of Kaiser Wilhelm II., born January 27, 1859, 3 p.m., at Berlin.

"The destiny of Kaiser Wilhelm is such that he will lose nearly the whole of his possessions. He will never be a popular monarch. Mars, in the meridian, will cause him to engage in continual quarrels, and the Sun in opposition to Saturn will denude him of his power among the nations. He will lose his royal spouse (the Moon in opposition to Uranus retrograde) suddenly. It is not improbable that his territory will pass into the hands of France and Russia. Those, at least, are the two Powers who will contend for the possession

of the Empire which the Kaiser is powerless to retain. Nothing more adverse or less royal than this horoscope of the Kaiser, except perhaps that of the Sultan of Turkey, is to be found among the rulers of Europe. The Kaiser will die suddenly, and the heart will be the seat of the fatal affection. Before the year 1905 it is probable Germany will in part have passed into the hands of its enemies."5

There are many horoscopes of this trashy type at the disposal of critics.

Further, will Mr. Mee enlighten readers how many direct test cases he has made, and the percentage of hits and misses obtained in his nativistic branch of astrology? Also the method adopted by him, and the steps taken to prevent errors of judgment from creeping in?

adopted by him, and the steps taken to prevent errors of judgment from creeping in?

I might also point out that the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, when President of the Psychical Research Society, said: "That there has not been a primâ facie case made out in its [astrology's] favour." This is unquestionably, from the scientific point of view, a correct statement.

Here is an astrologer at work, who had more faith in brokers and others than his art.

astrology's] favour." This is unquestionably, from the scientific point of view, a correct statement.

Here is an astrologer at work, who had more faith in brokers and others than his art.

Mr. W. B. Northrop, after a reference to the traffic in spiritual gifts being a base form of human depravity, tells us of a "medium, astrologer, and psychic adviser" doing business purely from the £ s. d. point of view. This gentleman astrologer drew up charts and charged his clients what he thought they could pay for the information he gave them. He also did business otherwise; for instance, did a slate trick, and attributed the information he gave those seeking for advice, as to the best mode of investing their ready cash, to spirit writing. He thus cast the blame on the spirits whether he hit or missed. When questioned as to the illegality of his operations he calmly stated that he had in his employ "one of the very cleverest Wall Street operators" to advise him. He stated he did excellent business. But the point here is, why on earth did he employ others and stoop to a deceptive mode of operating when he had astrology to assist him? If his astrology was unreliable, why did he charge people for it? An astrologer only can answer such a conundrum for astrology's honour.

In conclusion, I might remind Mr. Mee that I do not want to "thrash over old straw"; and would he kindly answer some of the questions for the edification of readers? If he evades the whole of the questions asked, in future I will have nothing further to say in this matter with him.

With regard to Mr. Alan Leo's letter in The Academy, April 9, 1910, there is no doubt but that he truly speaks through the pen like a god. Rejoice ye Leoists!

If Mr. Alan Leo had made an effort to review the correspondence re "Vox Stellarum" prior to that of February 19, 1910, he would have no doubt arrived at the correct idea underlying the quotation, which he states is a criticism relative to some astrological work for which he states is a criticism relative to some astrologi

¹ See letter in "A Treatise of Natal Astrology." Published by the Occult Book Company, 6, Central Street, Halifax, Yorks. 1894. Under "Unsolicited Testimonials" at the end of the work.

² See THE ACADEMY for January 29, 1910, p. 114.

See THE ACADEMY, January 29, 1910.

[•] The Court Circular, in a comment on Mr. Geo. Wilde's work referred to, sald:—"The anthor gives a great many examples of the horoscopes of well-known people, which appear to one who is ignorant of the subject to be quite convincing."

See Sepharial's (Old Moore's) "Manual of Astrology," 1898, pp. 140-1.

See the "Annals of Psychical Science," published by the Psychical Research Society, for June, 1906, p. 293.

there are many out there, but he must try and not allow them to interfere with the Western planetary angels. I have no doubt that Mr. Leo will have learnt ere this that the rays of Old Sol are more malefic, physically at any rate, where he is at present than at Ludgate Circus. If Mr. Alan Leo would answer some of the questions home astrologers have shirked I should feel obliged to him.

GEO. PHILLIPS.

THE WELSH NATIONALISTS.

To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

SIR,—Mr. Alfred Mond, the German Jew who is reported to own the English Review, and to control the Westminster, is apparently fond of indulging in the favourite Jew habit of stirring apparently fond of indulging in the favourite Jew habit of stirring up ill-will between the various religious and racial elements of the countries the Semites honour with their presence. Some time before the late general election, the Church Times had occasion to editorially refer to Mr. Mond's efforts to secure the votes of Welsh Nonconformists by appeals to their dislike of the Anglican Church, which he described as an alien body. He now appears to be trying to make himself popular in the Principality by championing Welsh Nationalism, which, like Irish Nationalism, is inspired chiefly by hatred of England. According to a report in the Times, Mr. Mond, in addressing a meeting of the Welsh Council of the League of Young Liberals at Swansea, said:—

ing of the Welsh Council of the League of Young Liberals at Swansea, said:—

"The Welsh should never forget that they were not merely Liberals, but Welsh Nationalists. They wanted in the House of Commons members of the Welsh national party, not members who accepted the dictation of, and who worked with a party which was not the Welsh party. In the past they had lost sight too much of the national aspect. There should be, and he hoped there would be, a real national party in the House of Commons, and if they believed in their Welsh nationalism, in the value of the existence of a Welsh national party, no Welsh constituency would allow a man to be returned who would not give an undertaking that he would belong to the party, just as no Irish constituency would accept for a single moment one who would not act with the Irish party. That was one of the reasons be fought for Mr. Gibbins in Mid-Glamorgan—to protest against Welsh seats being handed over to those who would not frankly act with the Welsh national party."

I wonder whether it has ever occurred to this Oriental import

test against Welsh seats being handed over to those who would not frankly act with the Welsh national party."

I wonder whether it has ever occurred to this Oriental import that, if fully aroused, the Welsh nationalist spirit might be manifested in a movement against a race other than the English. Some time ago, at a South Wales and Monmouthshire Social Purity Conference, held at Cardiff, the Rev. John Thomas said: "Owing to the leniency of the Cardiff stipendiary magistrates a few years ago, in siding with two Jewesses, when thirty-five Jewesses had been already deported, those two Jewesses had been allowed to remain, and have been the means of bringing sixty other Jewesses to Cardiff, who were on the streets of the city to-day, and foreign bullies were living on the shame of these poor women."

Now, if Welsh race feeling and local patriotism were aroused to a certain pitch, Mr. Mond's Swansea constituents might demand that he withdraw his opposition to the Act designed to keep Jewish prostitutes out of this country, and insist that the semi." Amurrakun" who led the opposition to the Act, and whom Mr. Mond's wealthy tribesmen have had appointed Home Secretary, should enforce the Act with such vigour that not only would Jewish prostitutes be excluded from this country, but Jewish "bullies," Jewish procuresses, Jewish white-slave traffickers, Jewish brothel-keepers, Jewish criminals, and Jewish coolies, as these members of Mr. Mond's creed are swarming into Cardiff, Swansea, and other Welsh towns just as freely as the Jewish prostitutes.

That the Welsh are capable of engaging in a movement against other nationalities than the English is shown by the riots which occurred in Wales when a syndicate of Mr. Mond's tribesmen

other nationalities than the English is shown by the riots which occurred in Wales when a syndicate of Mr. Mond's tribesmen that had secured control of some Welsh coal mines imported that had secured control of some Welsh coal mines imported some hundreds of Italians to take the places of the native miners, and by the other riofs which occurred in Dowlais during the Boer War, when a swarm of Yiddish coolies were imported to fill the places of the Welshmen called up to serve in the militia.

JOSEPH BANISTER.

IT IS I.

To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

SIR,—In line 32, p. 378, of THE ACADEMY of the 16th instant please read:—"I am,"—"I hit eom," etc., instead of "I am," "Ic hit am," etc.

AN OLD LINGUIST.

BOOKS RECEIVED

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Ascending Effort. By George Bourne. Constable and Co. 4s. 6d. net.
- The Shuiler's Child: A Tragedy in Two Acts. By Seumas O'Kelly. Maunsel and Co. 1s. net. Musical England. By William Johnson Galloway. Christophers.
- 3s. 6d. net.
- Social Aspects of the Drink Problem. By J. Alfred Sharp. Robert Culley. 6d. net.
- Culley. 6d. net.

 A Bibliography of Persius. By Morris H. Morgan. Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

 The National Providence Essays. By J. C. Smith. Kegan Paul and Co. 3s. 6d. net.
- The Federal Liquor Service. By Tullie Wollaston. T. C. Lothian, Melbourne. 2s. 6d. The Estates of the Realm. By Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, F.R.S. Leaflet No. 30. British Constitution Association.
- Deuxième Congrès International de la Presse périodique, Bruxelles, 24, 25, 26 Juillet, 1910. Documents préliminaires. Secrétariat Général du Congrès, Brussels.

THEOLOGY

- The Organization of the Orthodox Eastern Churches. By Margaret G. Dampier. A. R. Mowbray and Co. 1s. net.

 Existence after Death, Implied by Science. By Jasper B. Hunt,
 M.A., B.D. H. R. Allenson. 5s. net.

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, AND MEMOIRS

- Eight Friends of the Great. By W. P. Courtney. Constable and
- Co. 6s. net.

 The Life and Times of John Wilkins, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford; Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; and Bishop of Chester. By P. A. Wright Henderson, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford. Illustrated. Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 5s. net.

EDUCATIONAL

- A Collection of Eastern Stories and Legends for Narration or Later Reading in Schools. Selected and Adapted by Marie L. Shedlock. With a Foreword by Prof. T. W. Rhys Davids and a Frontispiece by Wolfram Onslow Ford. George Routledge and Sons. 1s. 6d. net.

 Staff Notation Vocalist, a Graded Course of Original Songs and Exercises on Tonic Sol-Fa Principles. By Alexander Adamson, F.E.I.S. A. Hammond and Co. 6d.

FICTION

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